

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following paragraph between paragraph 19 and header for the detailed description of the preferred embodiment:

[0020] FIG. 7 is a tool evaluating device according to an embodiment of the invention.

Please insert the following paragraph between paragraphs 50 and 51:

[0052] As shown in FIG. 7, the tool evaluating device 14 (“evaluator”) is configured to test a tool 120 disposed between the actuator 20 and the load sensor 22. In various embodiments of the invention, the actuator 20 may include, for example, a pneumatic piston driven ram, electro-magnetic ram, electric servomotor, or the like. To modulate or control the actuator 20, the evaluator 14 includes the controller 24. The load sensor 22 may include various load or pressure sensing devices, such as a load cell, pressure transducer, or the like. In this regard, the load sensor 22 is configured to sense changes in force or pressure and relay this information to the controller 24.

[0053] Optionally, the tool 120 may be held in place by at least one clip, such as clips 122 and 124. If present, these clips 122 and 124 are preferably attached to the plurality of respective rests 26 and 28. The rest 26 is attached to the shaft 30 of the actuator 20 and configured to provide a surface to bear against a member 126 of the tool 120. The rest 28 is configured to provide a bearing surface on to which a member 128 of the tool 120 may thrust against. The rest 28 is connected to the load sensor 22 and further configured to convey the thrust to the load sensor 22.

[0054] In addition, the evaluator 14 may include the position sensor 32 configured to sense the position and/or linear travel of the rest 26 and relay this positional information to the

controller 24. For example, the position sensor 32 may include a linear potentiometer. However, in another embodiment of the invention, the attributes of the position sensor 32 and actuator 20 may be subsumed within a single device. For example, an electric servomotor generally includes actuating and position sensing capabilities.

[0055] The evaluator 14 further includes a base 34 operable to provide a substantially rigid platform on to which the various other components of the evaluator 14 are mounted.

[0056] Depending upon the tool 120 to be tested, the evaluator 14 may include the click sensor 40 operable to sense “clicks” emitted by and/or through the tool 120. For example, vibration through the tool 120 and/or a pressure wave generated by vibration of the tool 120 may be sensed by an accelerometer, a microphone, and/or the like. The click sensor 40 is configured to relay the auditory and/or vibrational measurements to the controller 24. Moreover, the evaluator 14 may, optionally, include the scanning device (scanner) 36 configured to sense an identification mark and/or device (“ID”) 130 of the tool 120. This ID 130, if present, may be in the form of a Universal Product Code (UPC)/ European Article Number (EAN) bar code, a radio frequency (RF) tag, or the like. Accordingly, depending upon the tool 120 to be tested, the scanner 36 may be configured to sense the various ID forms.

[0057] In operation, the evaluator 14 is configured to test the tool 120 by modulating the tool 120 in a manner substantially similar to that experienced in actual use. For example, a hand tool may be configured to perform a function as a result of two handles being moved from an open to a closed position. Accordingly, to test this hand tool, the two handles may be driven one towards the other. However, depending upon manufactures specifications, the tool 120 may or may not actually perform its function during the test. That is, in the specific example of a

crimper, depending upon the manufacturers specification regarding the crimper, a crimped connection between a wire and a connector may or may not be performed in order to test the tool.

[0058] It is to be noted that the conformation of the various elements of the evaluator 14 is not critical and may be altered to suit the particular tool being tested. For example, the load sensor 22 need not be disposed to be thrust upon by the member 128, but rather, the load sensor 22 may be located in any suitable position operable to sense resistance of the tool 120 to pressure applied by the actuator 20. In this regard, specific examples of alternative arrangements include the load sensor 22 being disposed between the actuator 20 and the member 126 and/or between the actuator 20 and the base 34. However, other arrangement may be suitable, again, depending upon the particular tool being tested. Similarly, the arrangement of other elements of the evaluator 14, such as the click sensor 40 and the position sensor 32 may be altered in any suitable manner.